
IRON RANGE CONSULTING & SERVICES INC.

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Frank Foster, Chair
Natural Resources, Tourism, and Recreation Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Representative Foster:

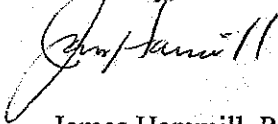
I am writing in support of efforts to list the gray wolf as a game animal in Michigan. I am strongly in favor of managing gray wolves sustainably in Michigan at the level that is within the constraints of public tolerance and ecosystem health.

Once nearly extirpated, wolves have made a remarkable natural recovery in Michigan. Wolves have exceeded population goals set by both Federal and Michigan State Recovery Plans. Wolf recovery was once strongly supported by the public. However this support has steadily eroded as wolf populations have grown beyond recovery goals with no prospect of effective wolf population control imminent. Depredation of pets and livestock by wolves is a serious issue which is escalating and can most effectively be addressed by population control.

Wolves should be managed using the best science available, and following the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Management. Establishing a hunting/trapping season for wolves would help greatly to control wolf numbers and is the most efficient method of population control known. Continued work by USDA Wildlife Services will also be necessary to handle specific animal removals.

Historically, Michigan was a national leader in wildlife science. In recent years, however, critical wildlife decisions have suffered in the arena of political decision making and Michigan's reputation for leadership has waned. This is an opportunity to once again confirm that Michigan believes in science-based wildlife management and that we are capable of leading on important wildlife issues here in the Midwest.

Sincerely,



James Hammill, President
Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc